

Sept. 13, 2007 - City releases water revenues for January through July 2007

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The city of Boulder Public Works Department released today updated year-to-date information pertaining to water billed revenue and use for the period of January through July 2007, comparing that data to the same time period in 2006.

The new water budget rate structure has been effective since January 2007, and the water billed revenue and use summary is as follows: year-to-date numbers show a 16.60 percent decrease in revenues (\$9,844,912), as compared to last year's revenues (\$11,804,894) for the same time period. Additionally, year-to-date numbers show a 15.87 percent decrease in water usage (2,862,764 thousands of gallons used), as compared to last year's water usage (3,402,712 thousands of gallons used) at the same time.

Although, the data shows a decrease in both water use and revenues as compared to last year, this year's numbers remain on target with anticipated revenue projections for 2007. The approved 2007 budget projected that the water utility would collect \$18,974,000 by the end of 2007. (This revenue collection is for water charges only and does not include wastewater or stormwater revenue collection.)

Revenue and water use for January through July:

Single-Family
Multi-Family
Commercial / Industrial
Irrigation Only

Total

Approximate # of customers / class

22,300

2,500

2,100

1,600

28,500

2007 Billed Revenue

\$3,972,372

\$2,019,773

\$2,729,140

\$1,123,627

\$9,844,912

2007 Use (1,000 gallons)

1,128,657

674,503

815,196

244,408

2,862,764

2006 Billed Revenue

\$5,212,220

\$2,289,503

\$2,494,515

\$1,808,656

\$11,804,894

2006 Use (1,000 gallons)

1,318,983

762,821

842,940

477,968

3,402,712

Note: These numbers reflect the total water use and billed revenue for the entire customer class. Individual bills within each class could be up or down, depending on individual water use.

The only customer class that saw a rise in billed revenue compared to 2006 numbers was the Commercial/Industrial class. However, the Commercial/Industrial class is also the only class that hasn't seen a significant decrease in water use compared to last year. The Commercial/Industrial class saw a three percent decrease in water use; whereas, the Single-Family class saw a 14.43 percent decrease, the Multi-Family class saw a 11.58 percent decrease, and the Irrigation Only class saw a 48.87 percent decrease.

Currently, Commercial/Industrial budgets are created by taking the previous annual water use for that account and dividing it by 12 months; thus, unlike other account types, the Commercial/Industrial accounts have the same budget every month and aren't based on an irrigable area.

The city is currently discussing options for making future adjustments to the way Commercial/Industrial budgets are calculated and is meeting with different representatives from the business community to gather information about issues and concerns. A study session with City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 9, to discuss the results thus far, to consider whether the projections are on target, and if the system is performing as anticipated. Council also will be provided with various options for potential changes to elements of the water budget system, if needed.

The new water budget rate structure was created to allow for more flexibility for the city when managing water use restrictions during times of water shortage or drought and to maintain current water conservation efforts by water customers.

For more information, contact Jody Jacobson at (303) 441-3122 or visit www.boulderwater.net.

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